

In the claims:

The following list of claims replaces all previous lists of claims.

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for electronically signing an electronic transcript, comprising:

- performing a first hash operation on the electronic transcript to generate a representation of the contents of the electronic transcript;

- concatenating data to the representation of the contents of the electronic transcript, said data identifying a user;

- performing a second hash operation on the data concatenated to the representation, the second hash operation generating a representation of the contents of the electronic transcript and the data;

- providing for the recording and time stamping by a digital notary service of the representation of the contents of the electronic transcript and the data;

- obtaining a notary record from the digital notary service of the time stamping;

- digitally signing the notary record; and

- forming an electronically signed electronic transcript by bundling the digitally signed notary record with the electronic transcript and with the data identifying the user.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the first hash operation is a RIPEMD-160 hash operation.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said data includes a user name uniquely identifying the user.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said data includes a user number associated with the user.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said data includes a recipient's name.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said data includes a unique identifier which uniquely identifies the transcript.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A computer program product comprising:

- a computer useable medium and computer readable code embodied on said computer useable medium for causing electronically signing an electronic transcript by a user, the computer readable code comprising:

- computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the performing a first hash operation on the electronic transcript to generate a representation of the contents of the electronic transcript;

- computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the concatenating data to the representation of the contents of the electronic transcript, said data identifying the user;

- computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the performing a second hash operation on the data concatenated to the representation, the second hash operation generating a representation of the contents of the electronic transcript and the data;

- computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the providing for the recording and time stamping by a digital notary service of the representation of the contents of the electronic transcript and the data;

- computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the obtaining a notary record from the digital notary service of the time stamping;

- computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the digitally signing the notary record; and

computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the forming of an electronically signed transcript by bundling the digitally signed notary record with the electronic transcript and the data identifying the user.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): A method for electronically signing an electronic transcript, comprising:

- performing a first hash operation on a file containing the electronic transcript to generate a representation of the contents of the electronic transcript;

- concatenating data to the representation of the contents of the electronic transcript, said data identifying a user;

- performing a second hash operation on the data and the representation, the second hash operation generating a representation of the contents of the electronic transcript and the data;

- providing for the recording and time stamping by a digital notary service of the representation of the contents of the electronic transcript and the data;

- obtaining a notary record from the digital notary service of the time stamping;

- digitally signing the notary record; and

- forming an electronically signed electronic transcript by bundling the digitally signed notary record with the data identifying the user and with the file containing the electronic transcript.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein the first hash operation is a RIPEMD-160 hash operation.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein said data includes a user name uniquely identifying the user.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein said data includes a user number associated with the user.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein said data includes a recipient's name.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein said data includes a unique identifier which uniquely identifies the transcript.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein said file contains text of the electronic transcript.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein said file excludes page numbers, line numbers, headers, and footers.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A computer program product comprising:
a computer useable medium and computer readable code embodied on said computer useable medium for causing electronically signing an electronic transcript by a user, the computer readable code comprising:
computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the performing a first hash operation on a file containing the electronic transcript to generate a representation of the contents of the electronic transcript;
computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the concatenating data to the representation of the contents of the electronic transcript, said data identifying the user;
computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the performing a second hash operation on the data concatenated to the representation, the second hash operation generating a representation of the contents of the electronic transcript and the data;

computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the providing for the recording and time stamping by a digital notary service of the representation of the contents of the electronic transcript and the data;

computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the obtaining a notary record from the digital notary service of the time stamping;

computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the digitally signing the notary record; and

computer readable program code devices configured to cause the computer to effect the forming of an electronically signed transcript by bundling the digitally signed notary record with the data identifying the user and with the file containing the electronic transcript.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the file excludes page numbers, line numbers, headers, and footers.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)